

Application No. 10/518,180
Amendment dated December 1, 2008
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2008

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Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20-22 are pending. The insertion of "2.5%" in independent claims 1, 12 and 17 has basis in original claim 6. The phrase "comprised of similar materials" is replaced in the independent claims with --having the composition but-- in order to further clarify these claims. The specification has been amended to recite an upper limit of chemical blocking material based on original claim 6.

The indication in the Office Action that the prior rejections based upon Viazemsky and Win have been withdrawn is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The independent claims have been amended to remove the term "similar materials." It is noted that claim 12 has contained this language since the application was originally filed in the United States in December of 2004 and this is the first time that the language has been objected to in an Office Action. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-16 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Piccini, EP 1 059 032. Reconsideration is requested.

The present application is directed to a wet wipe and a method in which a small quantity of a chemical blocking material is added to nonwoven fabric prior to saturation of the fabric with a lotion containing a cationic component. The chemical blocking material is believed to interact with the cellulose material in the nonwoven web to reduce or prevent chemical bonding of cationic lotion components during subsequent impregnation and storage of the wet wipe.

Piccini discloses a wet wipe that includes a non-acrylate binder in order to achieve desirable wet strength. According to column 6, paragraph 33, the binder is applied in an amount of 5-30% based on the dry weight of the fibers. There is no

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disclosure or suggestion in Piccini of using only 0.4-2.5 wt % of a "chemical blocking agent" (or binder). Piccini teaches away from using a small quantity of the binder, as a small quantity would not provide sufficient binding of the fibers.

Piccini does not disclose or suggest that small quantities of a chemical blocking agent (or binder) can be used to lessen the retention of a disinfectant. More specifically, there is no indication that 0.4% - 2.5% by weight of a material such as polyamide-epichlorohydrin resin would provide a benefit in reducing retention of a cationic lotion in a wet wipe. The relevance of the assertion in the Office Action that "it would have been obvious that the wipe retain about 10% less of cationic lotion . . . because the chemical agent is being entrapped by the fibers and a binder" is not understood, as the present application is directed to a reduction in the retention of the lotion as a result of the presence of chemical blocking agent. The assertion in the Office Action appears to be that the presence of binder increases the retention or entrapment of the cationic lotion. Thus, Piccini does not render obvious claims 1-8, 10-16 and 21-22 of the present application. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 17-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Piccini. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 17 indicates that the upper limit for the chemical blocking material is 2.5%. The range of 0.4% to 2.5% of a chemical blocking material is neither disclosed nor suggested by Piccini. Furthermore, as indicated in response to the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-16 and 21-22, Piccini does not disclose or suggest a wet wipe that has reduced retention of a cationic lotion resulting from the use of a small quantity of a chemical blocking agent.

Claims 18 and 20 depend from claim 17 and are believed to be patentable for the same reasons as claim 17. There is no recognition in Piccini of using small quantities of a polyamide-epichlorohydrin resin in order to reduce the retention of a disinfectant on a wipe. Reconsideration is requested.

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In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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